

December 7, 2006

## **Gov. Minner Joins Other State Officials, Veterans on Delaware Day to Dedicate Delaware's Veterans Home**

*Milford* – Governor Ruth Ann Minner joined state legislators, local officials and state veterans today to dedicate Delaware's first veterans home, which will house up to 150 veterans when it opens to residents in the spring.

"I am very pleased to be a part of the dedication ceremony for Delaware's first veterans home, which demonstrates our commitment to our veterans, who have endured tremendous sacrifices for us and our nation," Gov. Minner said. "Despite tight economic times, we worked diligently to make this project a reality—something no other Governor or General Assembly had done before."

Today's ceremony included a performance by the Milford Community Band, remarks from state, local and federal officials and the presentation of a time capsule to be opened in 2106. The \$29 million facility is funded by the state and federal governments and its 100,000-square-foot space is large enough to house 150 beds, with 30 of those reserved specifically for veterans with dementia. The veterans home will have more than 200 state employees once it is fully operational.

Gov. Minner and members of the General Assembly appropriated the first-ever money to construct a veterans home in Delaware in 2003. The following year, the Governor signed a bill to speed up the process so the home could be completed a year earlier than originally planned by using a "design-build" process that allowed initial site work to begin before the final design was complete.

"I look forward to the first residents coming to stay at our veterans home," Gov. Minner said. "This is a very important project that would not have been possible without the help of all agencies, organizations and individuals involved. I thank everyone for their dedicated efforts to get this facility running."